WASHINGTON POST AND
TIMES HERALD

DEC 14 1962

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Bay of Pigs Prisoners May Be Freed Soon

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (AP) [redacted] B. Donovan, [redacted] President Kennedy and joined by the American Red Cross, today said he hopes to win freedom for Cuban invasion prisoners by Christmas.

The Cuban missile crisis had halted his efforts to swap medicines, medical supplies and baby food to Premier Fidel Castro for the release of the 1,113 invaders held in Cuban prisons.

Castro had demanded $62 million ransom, but Donovan said no cash is involved.

"I'm optimistic of being able to accomplish this (swap) by Christmas," said Donovan.

Today, the Red Cross announced in Washington that it was participating in seeking the release of the men captured at the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961. Donovan said this support gives "tremendous impetus" to the movement.

The Red Cross said it was collecting supplies from U. S. manufacturers for shipment to Cuba and would provide welfare services to any Cuban prisoners released to the United States.

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